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NEWS RELEASE

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TWO INDICTED ON FIVE COUNTS OF PRODUCTION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

FRESNO—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that STEVEN PATRICK ARTHUR, 31, of Porterville, and JENNIFER LYNN THURMAN, 32, of Reedley, California were indicted by a federal grand jury, charged in a five-count indictment with production of child pornography. The indictment alleges that from September 1, 2007 until February 1, 2008, ARTHUR and THURMAN had custody and control over five different minor victims and produced images of them being sexually exploited.

This case is the product of an extensive joint investigation by the FBI Cybercrimes Task Force in Fresno. The Task Force is comprised of the FBI, the U.S. Secret Service, the California Department of Justice, the Fresno Police Department, and the Fresno Sheriff's Department. The federal case was initiated following information provided by the Porterville Police Department and the Tulare County Sheriff's Department.

According to court documents previously filed in this case, the Porterville Police Department and the Tulare County Sheriff's Department conducted an investigation based on a tip by a citizen who reported that she had spoken with a friend who had reported to her that her sister, later identified as THURMAN, had video evidence of child molestation by the sister's boyfriend, who was later identified as ARTHUR. Based on the investigation, Tulare County issued a search warrant on February 21, 2008 at ARTHUR's residence in Porterville.

During the search of ARTHUR's residence, Porterville Police officers located a computer hard drive, a video camera and numerous DVDs containing images of child pornography. Upon inspection of the camera, officers found images depicting five girls between the ages of 11 and 13 being sexually molested by ARTHUR and THURMAN. THURMAN told detectives that she had video recorded her ex-boyfriend, ARTHUR, as he sexually molested several of his daughter's female friends. She stated that she and ARTHUR would put antidepressants in cookies and then give the cookies to the girls before they went to bed. After the girls were asleep, ARTHUR would remove the girls' clothing and rub the area around the vagina. THURMAN admitted that she videotaped the images.

ARTHUR and THURMAN are currently in Tulare County custody following felony charges by the Tulare County District Attorney's Office for violations of California Penal Code Section 288(a), lewd and lascivious acts on a minor and numerous counts of rape and sodomy with unconscious victims, in violation of California Penal Code section 261. Tulare County Deputy District Attorney Phil Esbenshade is prosecuting that case. They are being each being held on a \$250,000 bond. If they post bail in Tulare

County, they should be taken into federal custody based on the federal charges.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Sherrill A. Carvalho, who is prosecuting the case, if convicted of the charges as alleged in the indictment, ARTHUR and THURMAN each face up to 30 years imprisonment and a mandatory minimum of 15 years imprisonment for each of the five counts charged. Both offenses provide for a possible lifetime term of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000. The actual sentence, however, will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

The charges are only allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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